

DORIT LANG Interview
by Bruce Pierini
Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey Project
January 13, 1984
Tape # 1

NOTE: There is a great deal of static on Side A from approximately 26:00 to 29:00 and on Side B near 1:30. Mrs. Lang here discussed she and her family's move to Rogers, Arkansas in 1972. She didn't care for Rogers and wanted to return to Sacramento. The tornedos and tornedo warnings particularly frightened her and reminded her of her experiences during World War II in Germany.

For another account of the Lang's stay in Rogers, please consult the interview done with Dorit's husband, Willi done by the Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey Project.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
0:00	Introduction
0:50	Dorit was born in 1943 in Frankfurt-Hoest in Hessen
1:50	She remembers the war from 1942-45, particularly the bombing of Hanau.
2:38	She recalls seeing her first American soldier.
3:20	She describes the bombing of Hanau.
4:40	Her father died in Russia in 1943. Most people in her hometown received similar bad news about their loved ones on the eastern front.
5:56	She does not remember the anti-Jewish sentiment. She did not know about the persecution of Jews during the war.
7:30	She had no particular thoughts about the Americans as the enemy.
8:05	She had (and has) tremendous anger against Hitler because of the loss of her father and because of the war.

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- 9:36 She describes seeing American military coming through her hometown.
- 10:36 She thinks the positive feelings she got from American GIs is one of the reasons she later came to America. She recalls seeing the first black man (American) and being scared simply because they had had no experience of black people. Blacks were considered very exotic.
- 12:36 Her reasons for coming to Sacramento.
- 12:59 She describes what family was writing back to them about how pleasant Sacramento and the lifestyle was.
- 14:24 Dorit worked in a household first, then a factory in 1948 Germany.
- 15:39 She met her husband Willi in 1953 on a train while she was coming home from work. They married in November 1954.
- 17:10 She remembers their wedding day.
- 18:30 She continued to work in the factories.
- 19:48 It wasn't unusual for women to be doing hard work (and the less difficult work) in factories after the war. Dorit like the work she did.
- 21:25 The girls in Germany received gymnastic training throughout their school careers.
- 22:40 There was a labor shortage because so many men died in the war and others were still not home from having been prisoners of war in Russia and elsewhere.
- 23:38 The German community she found in Sacramento in 1965 is described.
- 24:49 She could speak no English when she arrived. A neighbor woman helped teach her English. Also watching television helped. She remembers learning English by watching game shows and soap operas.
- 26:00 - STATIC
29:00
- 30:00 Experiences in Rogers, Arkansas
- 30:20 END Of Side A

BEGINNING OF SIDE B - Static found near 1:30.

- 0:00 Recalls the tornedos in Arkansas. Tornedos reminded her of the bombings of the war.
- 1:28 She only felt ethnic prejudice against her once. A woman supervisor of hers at the San Juan Unified School District had lost a son in the Second World War and blamed Germans in general.
- 6:08 The fact that Dorit is a Hausmeisterin is not that unusual in Germany.
- 7:13 A Hausmeister does more of the difficult work than a Hausmeisterin.
- 7:58 Description of the responsibilities of a Hausmeisterin.
- 9:11 Dorit likes the work, particularly the social aspects of the job.
- 10:57 Reasons that the Turn Verein went from custodians to Hausmeister and Hausmeisterin.
- 11:33 They speak mostly German at home.
- 12:45 Her committment to being a Hausmeisterin.
- 14:30 Sometimes spending so much time at the Turn Verein gets to her.
- 15:15 Description of the Turn Verein club. Social and athletic activities of the club. Other clubs are discussed as well.
- 18:00 She was the 1983 President of the Senator Lodge of the Order of the Herman Sons
- 19:18 Description of the women in the Order of the Herman Sons.
- 21:43 Dorit's own feelings about women being exluded from membership in the core group of the Turn Verein.
- 25:15 The importance of keeping a very clean, tidy and polished Turn Verein.
- 26:50 Description of more social activities.

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- 27:36 Description of present German community. She feels that they could be more cohesive.
- 28:56 A shopping incident where Germans in Sacramento would not speak German with them. Dorit and husband Willi's strong reaction of hurt.
- 30:10 Dorit's ethnic self-identity.
- 31:10 END Tape #1

DORIT LANG Interview - Tape #2 -- January 13, 1984

- 0:00 German is spoken in their home. They speak German with their grandchildren.
- 0:59 She does not feel homesick.
- 1:53 The Turn Verein is like a part of Germany here in Sacramento.
- 2:50 In travelling to Germany in 1974 she found herself homesick for her life here in America. She saw changes in the people there. She also did not like the weather.
- 4:02 People in their hometown in Germany were busy. They didn't have time for the Langs. She felt they were uppity over their newfound wealthier selves.
- 6:26 Future plans.
- 6:55 Dorit is content with her life.
- 8:00 She does not think that they made a mistake by emigrating to America. She does not feel she can go back there to live.
- 9:00 Description of the advantages of life here compared to Germany.
- 12:00 The diversity in ethnic groups here in California compared to Germany. This is one reason she prefers to stay here. She felt there were too many foreigners in Germany -- she felt Germany had changed so much because of all the new people living there. It didn't look like Germany to her anymore.

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15:14 She is proud to be a German and an American.

15:21 END OF INTERVIEW